



## United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

### 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of High Contracting Parties to **Amended Protocol II** on mines, booby-traps and other devices to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

#### General Exchange of Views

Geneva, 30 August 2016

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS*

Mr. President<sup>1</sup>,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities<sup>2</sup> involved in mine action.

The United Nations wishes to express its appreciation for the useful discussions on improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during the April Meeting of the Group of Experts. We congratulate the IED Coordinator and Co-Coordinator for the organization of those discussions, and for their report on the meeting.

Overall, the United Nations supports the recommendations put forward in the report of the IED coordinators, and wishes to make a few comments.

The United Nations welcomes the proposal for the development of guidelines on methods to educate civilians on the risks posed by IEDs. High Contracting Parties are encouraged to use existing materials and tools, such as the International Mine Action Standards and their respective best practices guidebooks for Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Risk Education, and avoid potential duplication of efforts.

In countries where children and their communities bear the brunt of the impact of IEDs, UNICEF supports national authorities and partners to develop or test IED risk education initiatives. These are then integrated into broader mine action activities, and can be shared with other affected countries. In Myanmar a national risk education toolkit was field-tested and approved by the Government, and includes messages on risks related to IEDs. In Syria, specific IED risk education materials have been developed and are integrated in the campaign conducted by the Ministry of Education and other partners, and have reached 2,800,000 children since 2015.

UNMAS has also led the development of guidelines on *IED Threat Mitigation in Mission Settings*, applicable to UN personnel, both civilian and military. Furthermore,

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<sup>2</sup> The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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UNMAS also recently updated its *Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Safety Handbook* to now include IEDs, which, you recall, we distributed here in Geneva in April. The new edition of the *Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War and IED Safety Handbook* contributes to significantly increase awareness on the threats posed by IEDs among organizations and individuals working in affected areas.

Mr. President,

The Amended Protocol II remains a useful forum for exchanging information on measures, best practices and methods to address the threat posed by IEDs, and to protect civilians from their impact. It allows for discussion on the possibility of a database, portal or platform to improve information sharing on the diversion and illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs.

The United Nations supports further discussions on IEDs within the framework of this Protocol, and will continue to use this forum to inform High Contracting Parties on its activities and measures undertaken, with the aim of mitigating the threat posed by IEDs. The Secretary-General will issue his first report on IEDs, which will reference at greater length the efforts of the United Nations in this regard.

Mr. President,

The United Nations is pleased to announce the recent publication of the UNMAS *Improvised Explosive Device Lexicon*. The Lexicon is intended to provide the United Nations system with a coherent, conceptual framework and operational vocabulary to address the IED threat worldwide. The Lexicon will assist in standardizing IED terminology across relevant reports and databases in IED-related education and training. It will also inform the development and understanding of IED policy and doctrine. An electronic copy of the Lexicon can be downloaded from the website [www.unmas.org](http://www.unmas.org).

Finally, the United Nations would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its call to all High Contracting Parties, as well as to those in a position to do so, to strengthen their contribution to national and international efforts to clear mines, booby traps and other devices, including through international cooperation and assistance.

Thank you.